
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG REQUEST TO STATION COAST GUARD CUTTERS AT PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD APPROVED

Two 270-foot Famous Class cutters relocating from New Bedford, MA to PNS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today received word from the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, Admiral Thomas H. Collins, that the Coast Guard will be relocating two Famous Class cutters, the Tahoma and Campbell, from their former station in New Bedford, Massachusetts to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Coast Guard based their decision on the availability of dock space, housing opportunities, cost of living, and mission purpose. Senator Gregg joined Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) earlier this year in requesting the relocation from the Commandant. The Tahoma and Campbell, which have crews of around 100 Coast Guardsmen each, were both commissioned in 1988 and are primarily responsible for homeland security functions, search and rescue missions and enforcement of fisheries regulations.

Senator Gregg stated, "The Coast Guard continues to perform an essential component of our national security -- the safeguarding of our ports and waterways, and the addition of two cutters to the Shipyard is a tremendous benefit for the New Hampshire seacoast and the Shipyard. The Portsmouth Naval Shipyard again has proven itself to be an invaluable asset to our nation's maritime security and the two Coast Guard cutters will find the Shipyard to be a fantastic home."

In the announcement earlier today, Admiral Collins stated, "The Coast Guard is committed to providing safe and secure waterways along America's coasts. This homeport change, along with the addition of a Coast Guard station and Maritime Safety and Security Team in Boston as requested in the President's 2004 Budget, will help us accomplish that goal and represents the best distribution of Coast Guard resources for the protection of the entire east coast and New England area."

In a letter to the Commandant last January, Senators Gregg and Collins stated, "The Famous Class cutters would provide an invaluable homeland security service by protecting the [Portsmouth Naval] Shipyard and particularly the nuclear submarines serviced at the Shipyard and the nuclear materials stored on its grounds. In addition to port security, the unique capabilities of the Famous

Class cutters would add to the Coast Guard's fisheries enforcement and search and rescue capabilities in northern New England."

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